

REMARKS

Claims 43, 44 and 46-65 are pending. By this Response, claim 43 has been amended and claim 45 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 59-65 were previously withdrawn in response to a Restricted Requirement. Reconsideration and allowance are respectively requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 43-44 and 46 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Chiussi (U.S. Pat. No. 5,905,711). Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully assert that Chiussi does not disclose all of the limitations of the rejected claims. Applicants have amended claim 43 to include subject matter from canceled claim 45, which has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. For at least this reason, claim 43 is patentable over Chiussi. Claims 44 and 46 depend from claim 43, and therefore also recite patentable subject matter. As such, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 47-49 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiussi. Applicants traverse this rejection and assert that Chiussi does not satisfy a prima facie case of obviousness because all of the claimed limitations are not taught or suggested by the cited references. For example, claims 47-49 depend from claim 43, which is allowable as already discussed. For at least this reason, the rejected claims recite patentable subject matter. Accordingly Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

PATENT

Serial No: 10/725,466
Docket No: 12177/43902

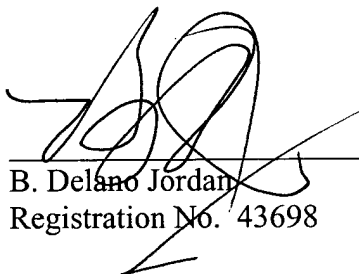
CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance in due course is solicited. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16, §1.17, or §1.136 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this matter, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (202) 220-4226.

Respectfully submitted,

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